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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/749,786	FINNEMAN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Hung S. Bui	2841	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 07/20/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6, 8, 10-17, 19-24 and 28-29 (renumbered 1-22).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in-the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
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***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-17, 19-24 and 28-29 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to remarks and claim amendments made in Applicant's Amendment filed on 07/20/2007, Applicant's argument is persuasive. **In claim 1**, applicant states that the limitation "the protrusion including a rib which extends generally parallel with longitudinal axis of the bore, the rib including first and second side surfaces which connect an outer surface of the protrusion with a side wall of the bore." This limitation, in conjunction with other limitation as claimed in the claim 1, was neither found to be disclosed, nor suggested by the prior art. **Claims 2-4, 6, 10, 14-15 and 29** depend on the claim 1. In **claim 8**, applicant states the limitation "first and second side surfaces which connect the outer surface of the protrusion with a side wall of the bore, at least one of the outer surface and the first and second side surfaces has a taper toward an end of the bore " which is opposite to a fixing element receiving opening of the bore." This limitation, in conjunction with other claimed limitation of the claim 8, was neither found to be disclosed in the cited references, nor suggestion by the prior art. **Claims 11, 13 and 28** depend on the claim 8. **In claim 12**, states that the limitation "the protrusion subtends an angle from a longitudinal axis of the bore of at least 10 degrees." This limitation, in conjunction with the other limitation of the claim 12, was neither found to be disclosed in the cited references, nor suggested by the prior art. **In claim 16**, (similar with **claim 22**) applicant states that the limitation "the projection subtending an angle of less than about 30 degrees of a circle defined by the bore and comprising a rib which extends generally

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parallel with a longitudinal axis of the bore." This limitation, in conjunction with the other limitation as claimed of the claim 16, was neither found to be disclosed, nor suggested by the prior art. **Claims 17, 19-22 and 23-24** depend on the claim 16. Amended claims have been considered and upon conclusion of a comprehensive search of the prior art, the office indicates that the claims, as amended, are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Arguments***

In response to remarks and claim amendments made in Applicant's Amendment filed on 07/20/2007, Applicant's argument is persuasive. Examiner is acknowledged about the amended claims. Claim 1 is allowance due to incorporate with an objected claim 9 in previously final Office Action mailing on 4/30/2007. Claim 8 is allowed from the previously final Office Action. Claim 12, which was considered to contain allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form, as indicated from the previously final Office Action. Claim 16 has been amended to attend to the objection and to incorporate subject matter of dependent objected claim 22.

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

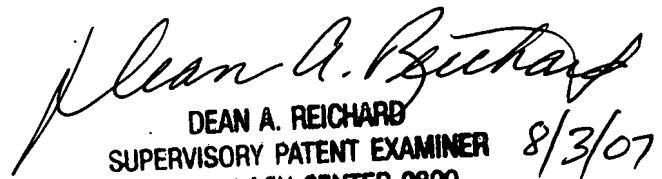
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

07/26/2007

**Hung Bui**

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DEAN A. REICHARD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800 8/3/07